
T H E

C R I S I S.

N U M B E R LVIII. *To be continued Weekly,*
DURING THE PRESENT BLOODY CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

SATURDAY, February 24, 1776, [Price Two-pence Halfpenny.

This galling Truth to GEORGE let BRITONS tell,
When Kings grow TYRANTS Subject will REBEL:
It must be so, and Monarchs strive in vain
'Gainst FREEDOM's Sons, who will their RIGHTS maintain;
The People have by RIGHT, and by CONSENT,
DETHRON'D a MAN, to SAVE the GOVERNMENT:
The LAWS to their own Channel DID restore,
And yet the Crown was SAFER than BEFORE.

To the K I N G.

S I R !



S a dutiful and loyal Subject, who wishes your Majesty's Person protected from the Rage of an incensed People; I warn you of the impending Ruin, which every Moment threatens your Crown and Dignity: If you have a Wish to preserve your own safety, dissolve your present corrupt Parliament; discard your Pensioners; abandon your present set of Privy Councillors; and turn your Resentment on those, who have

I have advised your Majesty to adopt such Measures, the Event of which now (too late) betrays the abominable Wickedness; and desperate Designs of the Advisers.

Will any set of Men presume to advise your Majesty to dispatch Forces to America, to spill the Blood of their own Countrymen; and at the same Time tell you, what none but Traitors could dare to utter, and what none but Fools can be simple enough to believe; that England is nevertheless in a defensive Situation against France and Spain. For Heavens Sake put not so obstinate a Confidence in the Wisdom of those Men, who in the Opinion of every Man who dares to think, speak, and act for himself, (Pensioners and bribed Lords excepted) are aiming at the Destruction of your Majesty's Crown, and the Introduction of a Spanish or French Government.

Gibraltar is certainly in Danger, it totters to its Base.---What Fate may not England then expect. And yet this alarms you not, you repose such Trust in your diabolical Parliament, that you are determined to persevere in the grossest Ignorance, under the Conduct and Direction of the most wicked, artful, and designing set of Men in all your whole Dominions. Everybody, nay, your very Ministers tremble for, and dread the Event. North, Mansfield, Bute, and Apsley advise (with quivering Tongues, and reproaching Consciences) such Perseverance, barely to secure their own HEADS; for they well know, that were they at this CRISIS to confess the Measures adopted, had better be declined, it would betray their whole System of traiterous Villainy; and they must meet the Fate of a JEFFRIES or a LAUD.----No Sir, never expect those Ministers to advise conciliatory Measures, who having advised the present, would assuredly be held up to public Infamy, and Example, as TRAITORS to their Country.

America offers the most just and honourable Terms, which your Inhumanity and Thirst for Plunder, to gratify the avaricious Views, and raise upon the Ruins of American Property, immense Fortunes for your Creatures and Slaves, will not suffer you to accept.

Every one of your Majesty's Well-Wishers avow the present proceedings to be inconsistent, not only with Humanity, but sound Policy; and consequently ought not (by your Majesty) to be pursued.

sued. I rank not your Ministers amongst your Well-Wishers, because by their Conduct they are shewn to be otherwise; which, is what a blind obstinacy, and fatal Perseverance, peculiar to TYRANTS, will not let you see.

Men, Societies of Men, the most respectable, and the farthest distant from any of your Majesty's Favours, have advised, have petitioned, have remonstrated; and yet they are with Scorn rejected, while every Lesson of a Court Favourite is strictly enforced, though it tend to the most destructive Ends.

If your Majesty is determined on Obedience to arbitrary Government, expect something worse than to see the Citizens of London approach your Majesty with a Petition or Remonstrance. To avoid the Fate of Charles, flee in Time from the Wrath to come: or if you have not Wisdom enough to govern a People, like JOHN RESIGN your CROWN.

I have never, Sir, been conscious to myself, that the Temptation of any base Interest, or the apprehension of any threatening Danger, could corrupt me to betray, or force me to decline, that which I well knew to be the true Interest of my Country; and therefore I have constantly looked upon those, who made it their Business to break in upon the just Rights of the People, as the wicked Instruments in the Hands of a weak or designing Prince, to involve the Nation in Tyranny and Confusion, which is always attended with the most destructive Consequences to the Subjects Lives, Liberties, and Property.

It is therefore with great Indignation I have observed, how strenuously this vile Design, has been laboured, from the fatal Moment you mounted the Throne of these Kingdoms, to this Hour. Under the screening Shelter of your affected Piety, Popery, and arbitrary Power have been favoured, nay cherished with all the Art and Industry, which Men of slavish Principles, and profligate Consciences could devise, till the twin Monsters are at length arrived to their fullness of prodigious stature.

As a good Preparative for the Introduction of Slavery and arbitrary Power, pernicious Pamphlets have been published by *Shebbeare, Johnson*, and the jesuitical Hypocrite, *John Wesley*, wherein it has been magisterially asserted, that the Realm of England is such a complete imperial Sovereignty, that you, Sir, have FULL, PERFECT, and entire Jurisdiction from GOD ALONE; and that the People ought rather to suffer DEATH *wrongfully* than resist you. It has been indeed speciously granted, that there were *political Laws* to secure the Rights of the Subject, but it was stiffly maintained, that the *imperial Laws*, which ascertained the Rights of the Prince, were SUPERIOR to the *political*, and might and ought to determine when the *political Laws* should be *observed*, and when *not*. Which is no more than saying the Rights of the Subject should be secure from all Invasions, but that of their King, a pretty Security indeed; what Sophistry! Why did not these Advocates for Despotism and Murder, these common Enemies to the Peace and Liberties of Mankind? ingenuously and boldly assert what they really meant, that your WILL, Sir, is the LAW. No---the Design is so wicked and odious, that to have owned it in *plain Words*, would have been to overthrow it. But by subtle Distinctions and treasonable Sophistry, the People are to be juggled out of their Liberties; indeed they would be no longer a People, but a PLUNDERED and ENSLAVED Rabble, left only *Tenants at Will* for their Lives, Religion, Rights, and Estates.

The Design, Sir, (whether first formed by you, or your Ministers, or both, is not material, but that one has been formed is notorious to the World) of changing our legal, into an arbitrary Government, and it was certainly copied from the *French*. In *France* it was laid in the Reign of *Lewis XI.* and took Effect to the Destruction of the Rights of the People, by destroying as you and your Ministers have done, through Corruption and Bribery, the Power of *Parliaments*. This was carried on by the most easy and modest Encroachments, that a People weary of their Liberties could have wished for. The King did not pretend to raise MONEY when he pleased, by himself without his Parliament. All that he *desired*, was only to be *permitted* to raise MONEY---*now and then*---upon OCCASION---in the intervals of Parliament; and not that neither, but in Cases of mere NECESSITY, when the safety of his *good* Subjects absolutely required it. And how could it be denied him, who (like YOU) loved his

his People so well, to judge of Cases of NECESSITY. But the Power of raising MONEY being once gone, the deluded People presently perceived, that they had purchased their SLAVERY with it; for then all Power fell into the Hands of the King. It was in vain to dispute with him any *civil Rights*, not yet parted with by name; (as the Americans have experienced from you.) The French King became by the above artifice (as you have by foul Corruption) at perfect Liberty to be, or not to be a TYRANT, which he pleased. Let no one ask how he governed; for did ever a Man grasp at the Power of doing Mischief, without the Purpose? If there has been such mysterious Riddles of irregular Virtue, yet the *French Kings* after *Lewis XI.* were no Instances of it;---nor can I, Sir, have Faith enough notwithstanding all your hypocritical Piety, to believe you will be one. In them it appeared plainly how effectually the Temptation of unlimited Power works on ambitious Nature. It was not enough for *Lewis XIV.* to be the LAW, but he must be the RELIGION also of his SLAVES; and this ought to be a fatal Warning to the People of England at this melancholy Æra, when all Laws divine and human are trampled under Foot, and made the jest and mockery of a slavish and corrupt Court. With many it was Argument enough to be of the same Religion as *Lewis*, because it was his: while his spiritual Dragoons disputed more forcibly with those of a more backward Faith; the Priests had stood altogether idle, and unconcerned in this Conversion, but for the Merit of that flattering Doctrine: A King is accountable to none but GOD, but to make amends for their being less serviceable than the *military*, their *unaccountable* King they stiled the VICE-GERENT of GOD, nay the very IMAGE of the Most High. It is much to be wondered at, they did not maintain that their King was accountable to none but himself; for if he prescribed their Religion, and dictated their Law, he was their IDOL GOD, as well as their ROYAL TYRANT.

This Sir, is an exact Picture of the French Original of arbitrary Government, and the Manner and Methods made use of to destroy the Liberties of that once free Country; which you and your Ministers, and your present Bench of Anti-Protestant Bishops, seem to have had before you, and to have copied with such a Masterly nicety, that it is really difficult to be distinguished from

from the Original, unless by some few adepts well skilled in the Art of Tyranny.

There is, Sir, another original Draught of a Tyrant, set forth in that excellent History of the Revolution in *Sweden*, wherein many Particulars bear a perfect resemblance of the present Times, as to the Transactions in AMERICA, which most clearly proves that all Tyranny is alike; for though the Streams from the same Fountain may run in several Ways, and various Channels, yet they all tend to the same OCEAN of BLOOD.

Many advantages however, will raise from the glorious Designs of those two trusty and well-beloved Ministers of Belzebub, BUTE and MANSFIELD, and the Preparations you are making for the triumphant Entry of POPERY and SLAVERY. You will bind Sir, firmly to your Interest, three most FAITHFUL and POTENT ALLIES, The TURK, the POPE, and the DEVIL.

Printed and Published for the AUTHORS by T. W. SHAW, Fleet-Street, opposite Anderton's Coffee-House, where Letters to the Publisher will be thankfully received.